

Implementation of 2003 Legislation Regarding Transit Asset Management

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this briefing paper is to update the Commission on the proposed program developed to comply with state law regarding Transit Asset Management Plans.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Seek approval of the Transit Asset Management Plan requirements.

BACKGROUND:

In 2003, the Legislature enacted SSB 5248, which, in part, established maintenance and preservation management requirements for cities, counties and transit entities. The legislation also required transit entities to submit an asset management plan to the Washington State Transportation Commission for certification as a condition of receiving state funding. The legislation is codified under the following RCW's:

- RCW 35.84.060, City Transit Authority
- RCW 36.56, County Transit Authority
- RCW 36.57A, Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority
- RCW 81.112, Regional Transit Authority

The statutes require that as a condition of receiving state funding, all Washington public transportation agencies are required to submit a maintenance and preservation management plan for all transit system assets to the Transportation Commission for certification. The plan must inventory all transportation system assets within the direction and control of the agency and provide a preservation plan based on lowest life-cycle cost methodologies.

Lowest life-cycle cost methodologies ensure that an asset is maintained at an acceptable condition maximizes safety and useful life, and results in lower maintenance and repair costs over the life of an asset.

DISCUSSION:

The Public Transportation and Rail Division established an Expert Panel to assist with the implementation of this requirement. The panel consisted of representatives from the Washington State Transit Association's Maintenance Committee (two from each size of transit system) and from the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool. WSDOT provided monthly updates to the General Managers and Maintenance Managers of all transit systems. In addition, a formal comment period was conducted for accepting transit agency comments on the proposed plan.

When presented with the recommendation in August, the Transportation Commission directed staff to recognize the current preventative maintenance efforts of public transit agencies in developing the plan.

In response, PT&R staff worked with the Transit Maintenance Expert Panel to:

- Accept existing preventative maintenance plans that meet the minimum requirements
- Establish clear written guidance to clarify the requirements
- Develop an optional plan template that includes sample forms to assist agencies in developing their plans
- Develop a one-day training class to provide further guidance and technical assistance

Most transit agencies already have a written preservation plan and established preventative maintenance procedures that meet the minimum requirements. Staff will provide technical assistance to those agencies whose maintenance procedures do not meet minimum requirements so that their plans can be certified.

RECOMMENDATION:

Request approval from the Transportation Commission on the Asset Management Plan Requirements

For further information, contact Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff, 360-705-7027 or Judith Giniger, Public Transportation and Rail Director, 360-705-7921.